

Salmon Stewardship Centre

ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS







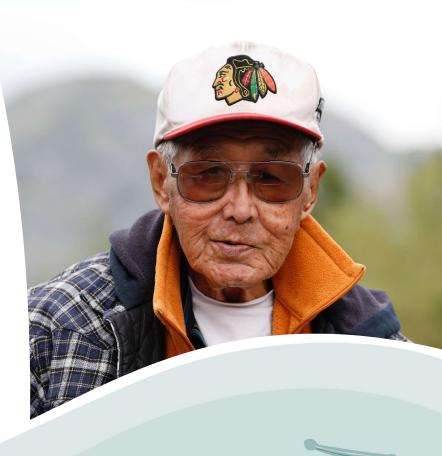
Joint citizen presentation March 3 & 4, 2025

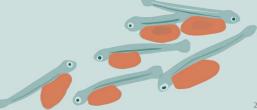
Our Commitment to Future Generations

"

You must save the salmon. If it wasn't for the salmon, there would not be one Indian left in the Yukon. We would have all starved. Now it is our turn to save them."

LOUIE SMITH - KDFN Elder







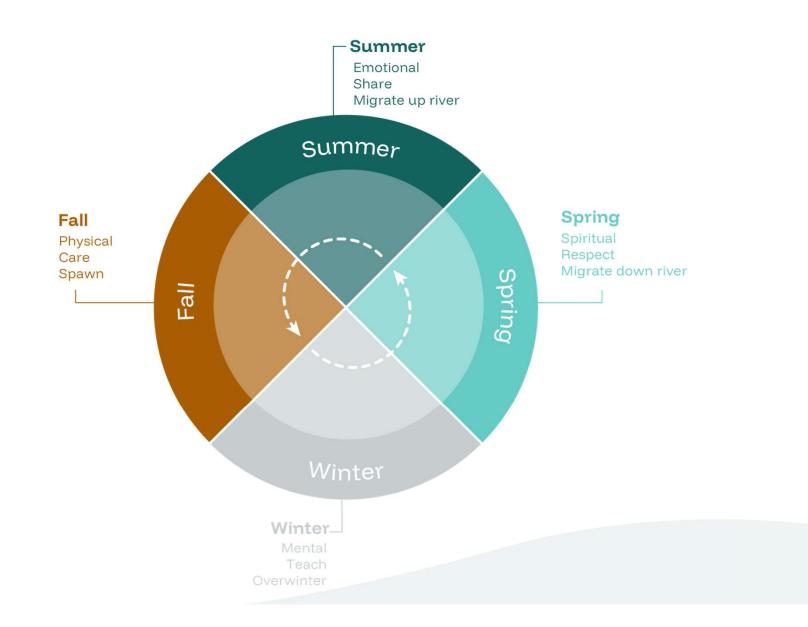
The Vision The Opportunity

- A collective responsibility as salmon stewards
- An opportunity to maintain and revitalize the sacred connection to salmon
- A beacon of hope
- An opportunity for all to collaborate towards a common goal - ensure we continue to see Chinook salmon on the spawning grounds



Salmon Stewardship Centre





Vision: Measures for Success

- Yukon First Nations and the public have a place on the river to gather for ceremony and to teach, learn, share and support salmon
- Cultural connection to salmon has been maintained and strengthened
- All parties working together to coordinate salmon rebuilding and restoration
- Ecological needs are being met
- Adult salmon and salmon redds are observed at release locations.



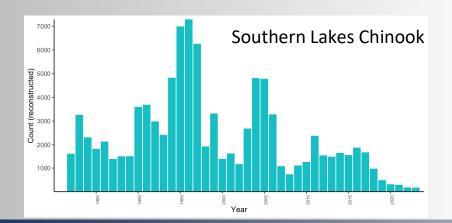
Why is this important? Reconnection to Salmon

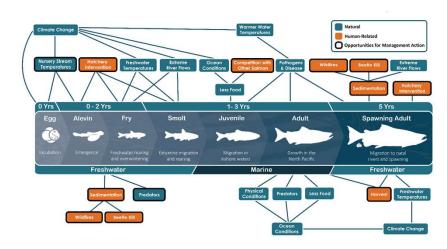
- Chinook salmon are a cultural and ecological keystone species
- Core to our identity and ways of life
- Salmon are a social fabric
- The loss of fish camp culture and teachings are disastrous
- Healthy salmon mean healthy communities
- Addresses how we maintain our connection to salmon in times of no fishing.

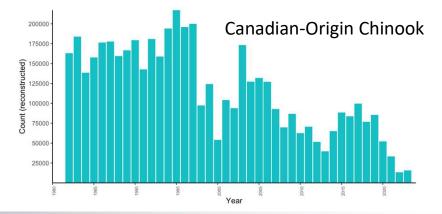


Upper Yukon River Chinook Salmon

- Chinook Salmon were once abundant in the Upper Yukon River
- Declines over the past century, with significant declines in recent years
- Overfishing, dams, and a changing environment (especially the ocean)
- Fish getting smaller, fewer eggs, worse condition.









Why is this important?

Salmon numbers are low and they need our help.



How We Are Already Working Together







Connecting the Broken Salmon Trail

- Supported by the Southern Lakes Salmon Plan (YRP R & E funded, completed May 2023)
- Associated with a new implementation plan between TKC, C/TFN and KDFN
- Tied to larger processes such as the Yukon Energy Corporation – Whitehorse Water-Use Relicensing YESAB proposal (Whitehorse Dam).



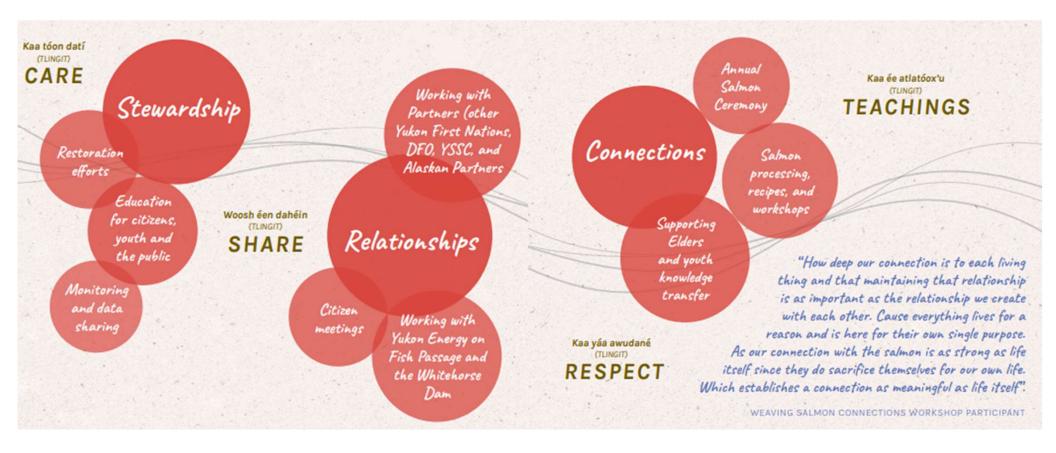
Connecting the Broken Salmon Trail

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTHERN LAKES SALMON

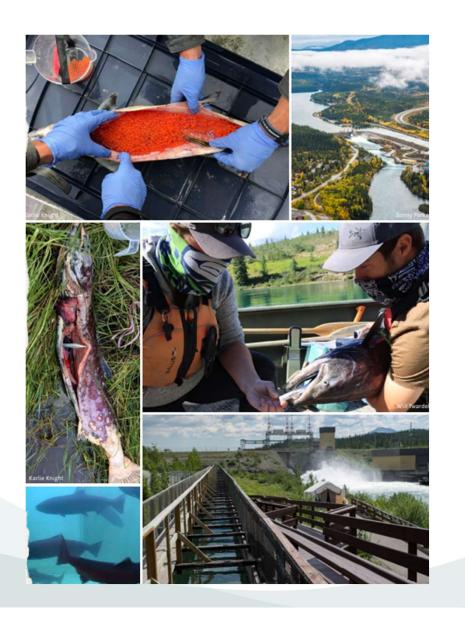












Salmon Stewardship Projects

Working individually and collectively

Our Relationships Our Collective Future

- Yukon First Nations are leading through restoration actions
- Time is right for partnerships at various scales and across the watershed
- Opportunity to align with a major coordinated Canadian Chinook Stock Rebuilding Strategy in progress

Continuing to Work Together for the Salmon







Today, we want your feedback on:

Spirit & Name

Centre Components

Inclusion & Type of Hatchery

Potential Locations

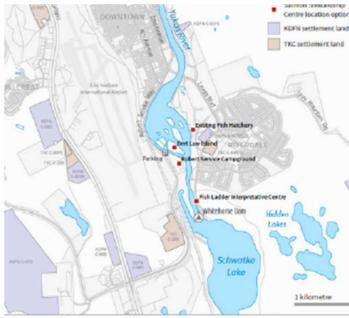


Design and Components: Our Ideas So Far...

Salmon Stewardship Centre







Salmon Stewardship Centre Location Options





Gathering and Teaching Place

- A place for citizens and the community to gather (especially Elders and youth) for:
 - Salmon Ceremony
 - Experiential Skill Development
 - Outdoor Classrooms
 - o Interpretive Experiences (tourism)

Gyu Nakwat'a

King Salmon Ceremony



Gathering & Teaching Places

Meeting Rooms

Auditorium

Elders Lounge

Outdoor Learning Space / Classrooms

Various Sized Rooms

Library / Archives

Covered Outdoor Area

Inspiration Spaces

Community Freezers

Firepit And Circle

Longhouse

Sweatlodge

Playground

Extra Space For Getting Ready (Regalia), Space With Hangers
Smoke House - Preparation, Canning, Distribution







Research Hub: Science & Traditional Knowledge

- A place for formalized TK/western science working towards:
 - o Indigenous led partnerships
 - Academic partnerships
 - o FN training and mentoring
 - o TK protocols and data sovereignty

Guch'an k'e yè Dank'e Nłanut'ar K'e

Western Science and Traditional Knowledge



Research Hub

Teaching & Skill Growth

Storage

Lab (Water, DNA)

Environmental Monitoring Capacity

Integrate First Nation & Western Knowledge

Archives

Salmon Song Collection

Accommodations For Visiting Researchers

Reading Area With Library







Centre for Chinook Restoration

- Indigenous-led restoration actions centred in care, share, respect and teachings
- Regional hub to support other YFN community efforts
- Aligned with stock rebuilding strategies
- Public involvement in stewardship and outreach

Dan Michie Chua gyu ghra chu yì ts'an 'eninjì.

People at Michie Creek let go of the fingerling salmon in the water.



Chinook Restoration

Hatchery

Hatchery Space For Other Projects
Hatchery Viewing Access
Spawning Ground Restoration

Fish Camp

Stream & Facility Release Location

Monitoring Equipment Lending

Ceremony Space

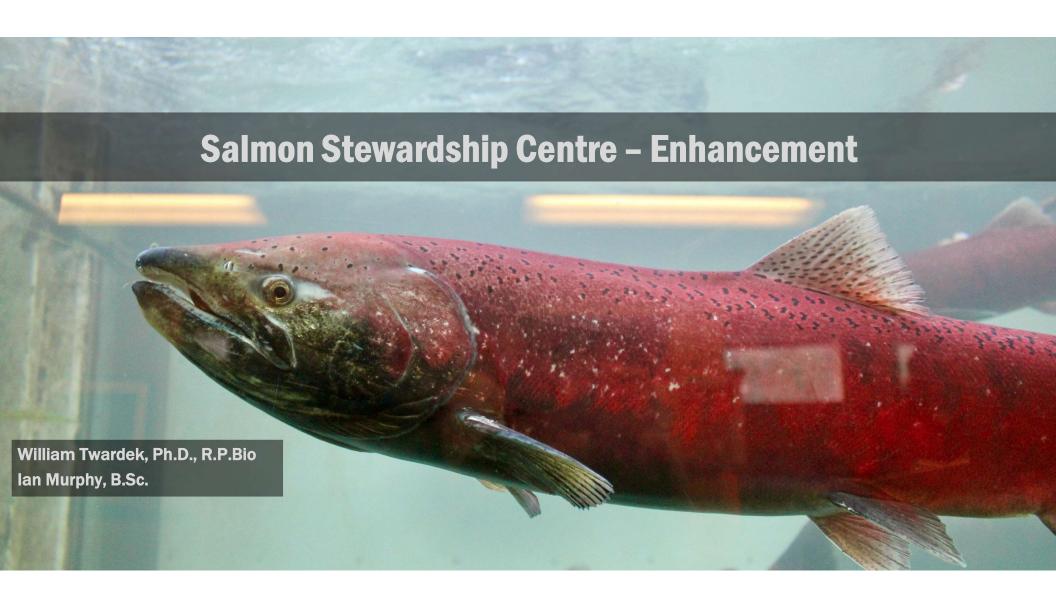
Design and Components



What should be included in these components?

Are we missing something?

Chinook Restoration & Enhancement



What is enhancement?

- Increasing the survival of juvenile salmon with the goal of increasing adult returns.
- Hatcheries are the most common approach (i.e., raising fish in captivity, release into the wild).
- Short-term intervention, while threats to the population (e.g., habitat loss, overfishing) are addressed.
- Hatchery practices need to carefully consider risks to wild fish



What is enhancement?

Instream incubation



https://scotty.com/product/jordan-scotty-fish-egg-incubator/

Hatchery-in-a-box



Hatchery



https://islandfishermanmagazine.com/what-is-a-salmon-hatchery/

Enhancement goals

- Harvest: Supporting fisheries
- Offsetting: Starting a hatchery in response to a specific impact (e.g., Whitehorse Rapids Fish Hatchery)
- Stewardship & Education: Engaging communities in conservation, keeping people connected to salmon.
- <u>Conservation</u>: Preventing salmon populations from disappearing (i.e., life-support)
- Rebuilding: Restoring wild salmon stocks proactively before major declines
- Assessment: Using the hatchery as a tool to learn and adapt



https://ecoreportcard.org/report-cards/willamette-river/indicators/juvenile-chinook/



Enhancement goals

Stewardship & Education: Engaging communities in conservation, keeping people connected to salmon.

- Lower production levels, lower potential to boost numbers
- Low risk = lower facility requirements, less oversight, less planning
- Avoids stocks at highest risk



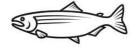






- More fish released, greater potential to bring back adults
- Low risk tolerance = stringent facility requirements, greater oversight and technical considerations, robust planning
- Focuses on stocks at highest risk







McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project

- McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project (2007-2018)
- Raised at the hatchery (gravity fed groundwater)
- Education and stewardship.
- Focus on Fox Creek (fish raised to same size as wild ~1 g)
- Small numbers of juvenile salmon and carcasses found!



Enhancement planning

 There can also be more than one goal (e.g., stewardship and conservation)

 Enhancement can be for one, to many populations, and even different species

 The scale can change over time (e.g., start small and grow over time)





Operations and governance

- Hatcheries that are not DFO Major Operations facilities are often a partnership between First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (e.g., CEDP or CIP facilities).
- Enhancement Plans are typically developed collaboratively with DFO, while facilities can be operated by First Nations or their contractors (e.g., TNG, QRRC, ONA).
- Opportunity to bring Traditional Knowledge into hatcheries and naturalize the process as much as possible.



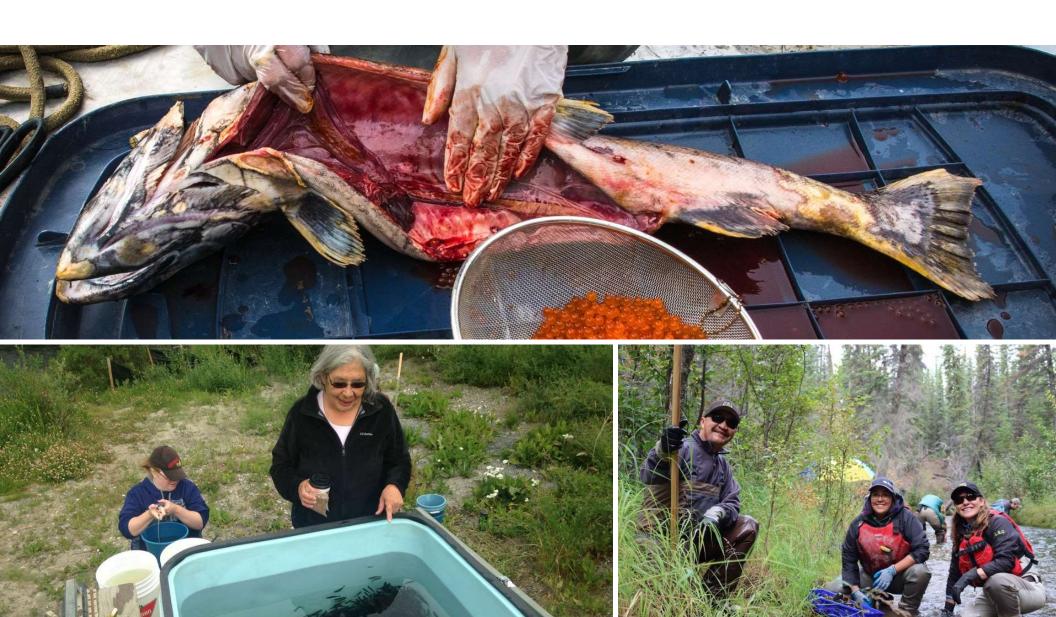
https://www.iamgold.com/English/blog/blog-detail/2024/Mattagami-First-Nation-fish-hatchery-a-success-story/default.aspx



Principles for success

- Don't make things worse
- Keep it natural
- Start small, learn, and expand
- Let Traditional Knowledge guide the Western Science
- Enhancement is a tool, one of many
- Habitat and fisheries management are first priority
- Enhancement should end (it is not forever)
- Monitoring, is it working?





Indigenous-Led Stewardship

- A small-scale conservation/stewardship hatchery may be one tool to support stocks at dangerously low levels/risks of extirpation
- Restoration efforts draw upon Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science
- Should have the goal of short-term intervention to support the population while limiting factors are addressed

NOT FOR PRODUCTION OR ENHANCEMENT

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<u>Stewardship Hatchery</u> – supplements local stocks and promotes local employment, education and tourism

<u>Conservation Hatchery</u> – intended to restore depleted stocks.

















Feedback on Enhancement Options:

- Do you support a hatchery?
- What are your thoughts on the conservation and stewardship objectives for a hatchery?

Spirit and Naming

How can we make sure the Center reflects the relationship of the three nations to salmon, water and each other?

Name

Guiding Principles

Traditional Practices

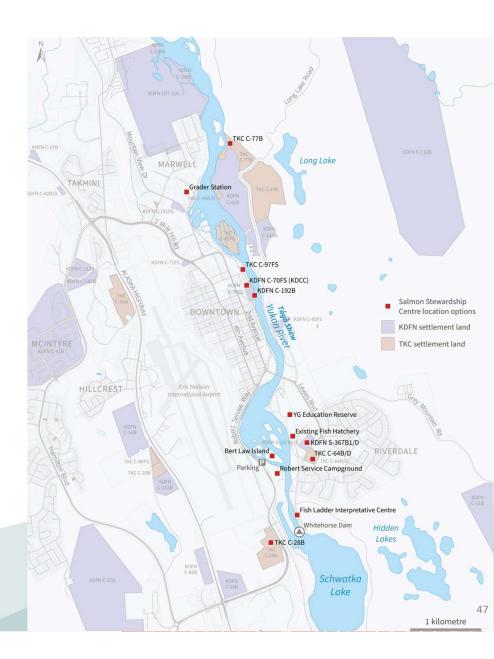
Potential Locations for the Salmon Stewardship Centre



Salmon Stewardship Centre

ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

Location Options



Feedback on Locations:

- Which location(s) do you prefer?
- What should we consider when selecting a location?
- What information would you like us to know about certain locations?

Questions?

Please visit the stations and share your feedback

Shaw nithan Soga Sinla Gunalcheésh Másin Cho Thank you

Contact Information:

Brandy Mayes – brandy.mayes@kdfn.net 867-336-3316

Jen Herkes – jenherkes@gmail.com 250-552-4817

Catherine Ford-Lammers – afroil@protonmail.com 867-689-5271

Lea Pigage – lea@simplenorth.ca 867-334-9968

Kim Koyczan – fishandwildlife@taan.ca

